

News from the Savannah River Site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRS Employees Give Over 12,000 Christmas Gifts to Local Children during 25th Anniversary Toys for Tots Campaign

Over 375,000 toys have been collected since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 8, 2016) – With only a couple of weeks until Christmas, Savannah River Site (SRS) employees celebrated the tradition of collecting toys by the truckload, partnering with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program to benefit less fortunate children in the Central Savannah River Area.

The generosity of SRS employees was again proven with the collection of more than 12,000 toys for this year's drive.

"This is the largest collection of toys I've been a part of since joining the Marine Corps in 1981," said Staff Sergeant Gregory Allen, U.S. Marine Corps. "SRS takes a lot of pressure off us. We don't have to gather and organize the toys. They're here, accepted and ready to go. All of this is inspiring."

For the sixteenth year, construction employees also sponsored the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, enabling



Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site celebrated 25 years of support for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program with the collection of more than 12,000 toys this year and over 375,000 toys since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991.

SRS employees to adopt 730 area children, giving toys and clothing items specifically to Angel Tree recipients.

“The partnership we have with SRS and the Angel Tree Program is beyond anything I’ve ever experienced in my 15 years as an officer with the Salvation Army,” said Aiken Salvation Army Major David Phelps. “And, because of events like this, last year we were able to provide over 21,000 toys to children in Aiken County.”

In addition, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Remediation and Centerra provide corporate monetary gifts to further add to the success of this year’s program.

The annual event is sponsored by SRS construction employees with the support and participation of the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River; Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC ; Savannah River Remediation LLC; Centerra Group, LLC; Augusta Building Trades; and Parsons. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, from donating toys to making monetary contributions.

“When I wake up on Christmas morning, I stop and think about the number of children who are surprised with presents under the tree because of Toys for Tots and the Angel Tree program,” said Julie Kirby, Chair, SRS Toys for Tots Campaign. “At that moment, it’s more important than seeing what’s going on in my own house.”

Each year, several tractor-trailers full of presents from the “SRS Toy for Tots Pick Up” event are sorted at Salvation Army locations. Aiken Marines then distribute the gifts to children in Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell and Edgefield counties, as well as the towns of North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Couchton. The Marines from Augusta supply toys to Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington and Wilkes counties and the town of Wrens.

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, Marine Corps Reserves, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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